



West Indies - Dutch & British

1921-1935

188

See also other packets
under -

Trinidad

Antigua

Grenada

etc - etc

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.

SUBJECT BRITISH WEST INDIES (1)

Bulletin No. 250

TO NEW YORK FROM WASHINGTON

DATE March 22, 1921.

New York

MOVEMENT FOR A UNIFORM CURRENCY FOR BRITISH GUIANA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Consul Chester M. Davis,
Georgetown, British Guiana,

In line with the general movement toward federating the various British West Indian colonies and British Guiana is the movement for a universal currency for these colonies recently launched in British Guiana.

A largely attended public meeting was held in Georgetown on February 3, 1921 which was addressed by Lt. Col. Ivan Davson O.B.E., a resident of the colony, the Hon. Cecil Clementi, Colonial Secretary, and others in reference to suggested plans for a common currency.

The currency in use in British Guiana at present consists of : (a) Bank notes of the value of \$5.00 and over issued by the Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada. These notes also bear upon their face a statement of their equivalent in pounds sterling, the \$5.00 note for instance being equivalent to 20 shillings 10 pence. (b) Government currency notes of the values of \$1.00 and \$2.00. (c) British silver and copper coins as circulates in England with the addition of a silver four-penny piece known locally as a "bit". (d) English gold and Bank of England notes are valid of course but are not in circulation to any extent.

It will be readily seen that the use of the dollar currency simultaneously with the small change in shilling and pence is productive of much delay and confusion in the ordinary financial transactions of daily life. The matter is somewhat further complicated by the use of the "bit" (four pence of eight cents). The use of this coin is a relic of the Dutch occupation of the colony. Four "bits" are equal to a "guilder" and while there is no such coin as a "guilder" in circulation yet the term is in common use among the laboring classes and in the markets.

The form of currency of which Col. Davson urged the adoption was the "pound and mil scheme" the basis of which consists in three successive sub-divisions of the pound, each of which becomes a unit of account and is represented by a coin. One tenth of a pound is a florin, for which a coin already exists. One tenth of a florin is $2\frac{4}{10}$ pence for which it is proposed a new coin should be issued and that a smaller coin equal in value to .24 of a penny also be issued to be known as the "mil" or "mite".

The system of notation advocated employs the florin as the integer unit followed by decimals.

Mr. Clementi, the Colonial Secretary, in commenting on the remarks of Col. Davson said that he agreed to the idea of a uniform West Indian currency but that he thought the idea of a political federation between the West Indies and British Guiana impracticable as the problems of this colony were quite different to those confronting the other colonies. He stated that he thought the time was now opportune for a conference of Colonial Treasurers with a view to ascertaining between themselves the possibility of a join scheme for submission to a committee in London for the institution of a common West Indian currency.

BRITISH WEST INDIESC.P.R.
MAR 29 1921

March 28, 1921.

We enclose you herewith copy of a report which we have received regarding the movement for uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We are aware that the matter is not entirely new and that it has already been talked of by some of the Banks in Canada now issuing notes in the West Indies,- but thought that perhaps there might be something in this which may prove of interest to you.

We shall be glad to hear what you have to say on this subject.

What do you think of informing B.W. & Co. of the contents of this report and having them see what they can find out as to what has been done, if anything, at home.

Manager Foreign Department.

FWG/IW

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.

SUBJECT

BRITISH WEST INDIES

TO NEW YORK FROM OTTAWA

C.P.R.
APR 7 1921

APR -4 1921

DATE

April 1st, 1921.

Ottawa

We have your letter of the 28th ultimo together with report regarding the movement for uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We have heard of this movement from time to time but from what we can gather it is not making any great headway, and it is likely to take a long time to get action on account of the local jealousies between the different Colonies.

We discussed the matter yesterday with the Manager of the Foreign Department of the Royal Bank of Canada which, as you know, does a large business in these Islands, and he told us that there would be no immediate developments. As a matter of fact, the Bank is now putting through an order for new notes to be circulated in the Bahamas, and last year they ordered an entirely new issue of notes for a number of their other branches in the West Indies.

We see no harm in keeping B.W. & Co. informed about the matter although we are inclined to think when the time comes the order for new notes will probably be placed in Canada on account of the activities of the various Canadian Banks in the West Indies.

CGC:EGG

Cyboran
General Manager.

RECEIVED



OTTAWA

BRITISH WEST INDIES.

C. P. R.
APR 7 1921

April 6, 1921.

We acknowledge your letter of the 6th inst. under this heading and thank you for the information contained therein.

So as to be quite sure that we were fully in touch with the situation we have written London asking them to find out anything they could as to whether anything has been done there or not.

FWG/iw

Manager Foreign Department.

APR 7 1921

April 6, 1921.

OTHER COPY IN
PACKET

We enclose herewith copy of a report on the matter of uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We have taken this matter up with our Ottawa Office and are in receipt of a reply from them reading:-

"We have your letter of the 28th ultimo together with report regarding the movement for uniform currency for the British West Indies.

We have heard of this movement from time to time but from what we can gather it is not making any great headway, and it is likely to take a long time to get action on account of the local jealousies between the different Colonies.

We discussed the matter yesterday with the Manager of the Foreign Department of the Royal Bank of Canada which, as you know, does a large business in these Islands, and he told us that there would be no immediate developments. As a matter of fact, the Bank is now putting through an order for new notes to be circulated in the Bahamas, and last year they ordered an entirely new issue of notes for a number of their other branches in the West Indies."

We will be interested in hearing anything you may be able to find out as to what has been done about the matter at the conference of Colonial Treasurers as to the possibility of a joint scheme for submission to a committee in London, for the institution of a common West Indian Currency.

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd.

Subject British West Indies.

Date April 25th 1921.

London

to

New York

We duly received your letter of April 6th, and I append
a copy of a report from our Sales Department on the subject.

H. L. L.

OTHER COPY IN

COPY

19th April 1921.

REPORT FROM SALES DEPARTMENT.

C.P.R.
MAY 9 1921
C.P.R.
MAY 13 1921

re BRITISH WEST INDIES.

I went down to-day to see Mr. Deakin of the Crown Agents, for the Colonies, and he gave me the following facts--

1. That nothing was yet known 'officially' about the institution of a Common West Indies Currency.
2. That he had heard scraps of information about the matter but that it was yet too early to give anything definite.
3. Mr. Deakin promised that as soon as there was anything definite to report he would get into touch with us.
4. He confirmed that a new issue of notes had lately been made to Branches in the West Indies by the Royal Bank of Canada.

May 12, 1921.

C.P.R.

MAY 13 1921

OTHER COPY IN

PACKET.

We acknowledge your letter of April 25th,- together
with the report from your Sales Department in connection with this
matter,- for which kindly accept our thanks.

FVG/IW

DUPLICATE SENT

OTTAWA

BRITISH WEST INDIES

May 12, 1921.

C.P.R.
MAY 13 1921

The following is a copy of a report sent us by B. W. & Co., which was made by their Sales Department under date of April 19th, on the above matter:-

"I went down to-day to see Mr. Deakin of the Crown Agents, for the Colonies, and he gave me the following facts:-

1. That nothing was yet known "officially" about the institution of a Common West Indies Currency.
2. That he had heard scraps of information about the matter but that it was yet too early to give anything definite.
3. Mr. Deakin promised that as soon as there was anything definite to report he would get into touch with us.
4. He confirmed that a new issue of notes had lately been made to Branches in the West Indies by the Royal Bank of Canada."

Manager Foreign Department.

IW

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY.

SUBJECT

BRITISH WEST INDIES

TO NEW YORK FROM OTTAWA

DATE May 16th, 1921.

File
C. P. R.
MAY 17 1921
MAY 17 1921
Ottawa

We wish to thank you for your letter of May 12th with report from B.W. & Company regarding the matter of uniform currency.

Since last writing you we have discussed this matter with some of our friends in the Canadian Bank of Commerce who have just entered the banking field in the West Indies. They tell us that the move for uniform currency is still in the initial stages, and that a great many difficulties will have to be overcome before anything definite comes out of it.

CGC:EGG

Cyboran
General Manager.



W.S. Mure
February 9, 1925.

Mr. Gullett's letter to Mr. Cowan, answering his of December 30th.

re : Mr. Poussette, Canadian Trade Commissioner
and possible bank-notes issues by Islands
of the West Indies

both Mr. Gullett's and Mr. Cowan's letters
sent to Mrs. Worcester for filing
in OTTAWA letter-files.

CHIEFLYIN BOND

C.P.R.
DEC - 4 1935

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Domestic, Import and Export

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NEW YORK CITY

U. S. A.

TELEPHONE SCHUYLER 4-8764

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References

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New York City

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Skins
Consignments Solicited

C.T.B.
NOV
DEC 30 1935

ALL OFFERS ARE CIF PORT REQUIRED OR NEAREST PORT AND ARE MADE IN
GOOD FAITH AND WITH THE INTENTION OF EXECUTING REQUIREMENTS AT
PRICE QUOTED. THESE OFFERS, HOWEVER, ARE WITHOUT ENGAGEMENT AND
ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET FLUCTUATIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

In Reply Please Refer to No. W

American Furk Noh Co
City

Nov 29 - 35

Export Inquiry for West Indies, Samples required:

Please furnish for above inquiry 1/2 doz - 1 doz specimens (various)
of Frock certificates; medium priced.

Payment: If order results, prompt cash with order.

Diehl & Company
2 West 89th Street
New York

TERMS OF PAYMENT: IN ORDER TO OBTAIN LOWEST PRICES FOR YOU, WE OURSELVES PAY PROMPT CASH ON ARRIVAL AT SHIPPING POINT. WE THEREFOR REQUIRE IN EVERY INSTANCE AN IRREVOCABLE 3 OR 4 MONTHS BANKER'S LETTER OF CREDIT IN OUR FAVOR TO BE SENT WITH ORDER. THIS LETTER OF CREDIT CAN ALSO BE ISSUED TO OUR BANK, THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK, 86TH STREET AND BROADWAY, OR ANY NEW YORK BANK OF YOUR CHOICE. WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO TURN OVER PROCEEDS TO US UPON DELIVERY OF CONSULAR INVOICE, PREPAID BILL OF LADING, AND INSURANCE CERTIFICATE. ALL CHARGES FOR ISSUING LETTER OF CREDIT AND DISCOUNTING SAME ARE FOR OUR ACCOUNT. WE DO NOT ISSUE DRAFTS. DOCUMENTS ATTACHED, ON OUR CLIENTS.



NOV 30 1935



C. F. R.
DEC -4 1935

December 3rd, 1935.

Messrs. Diehl & Company,
2 West 89th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:-

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 29th, reference W, concerning an inquiry for stock certificates.

As each order we receive is treated individually and the documents are designed and prepared in accordance with the desires of the customer, it is impossible for us to quote prices without having further details of what is wanted. If you could let us know the class of work desired, that is whether the certificates are to be entirely printed from steel engraved plates or by lithography, or a combination of these, or typed, also the approximate size of the documents desired, as well as the approximate amount of text to appear thereon, we could then prepare a quotation. If this is found acceptable we could then present specimens accordingly.

Awaiting your further advices, we remain,

Yours very truly,

Manager Foreign Department.

JWB:grl